Peace News

1904 Friday, 12 January 1973 7p

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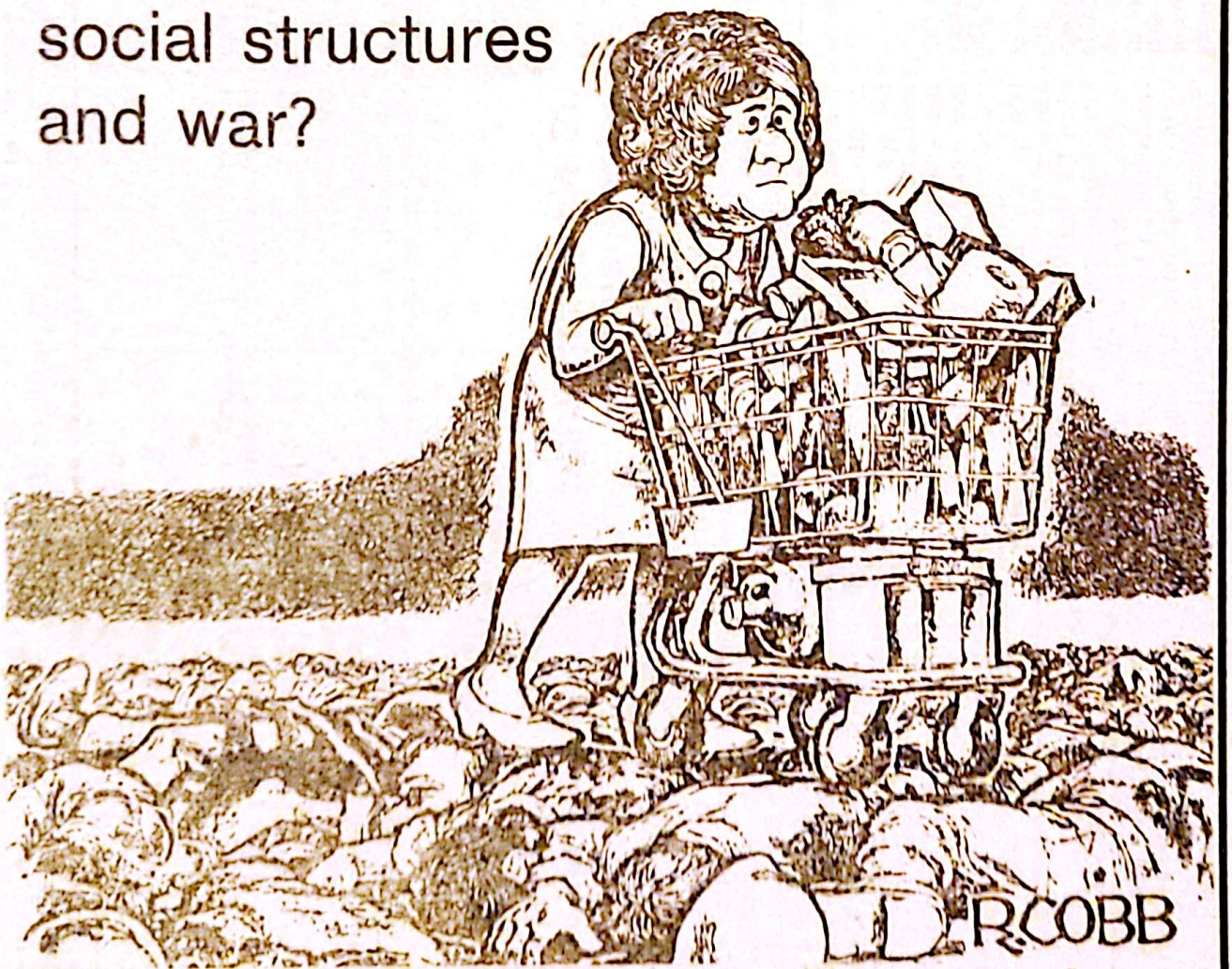
Chase that scrap page 6

How many pacifists think that the fact that they eat factory processed cereals has nothing to do with the question of social structures and war?



John Papworth on priorities for pacifists, page 4

for nonviolent revolution

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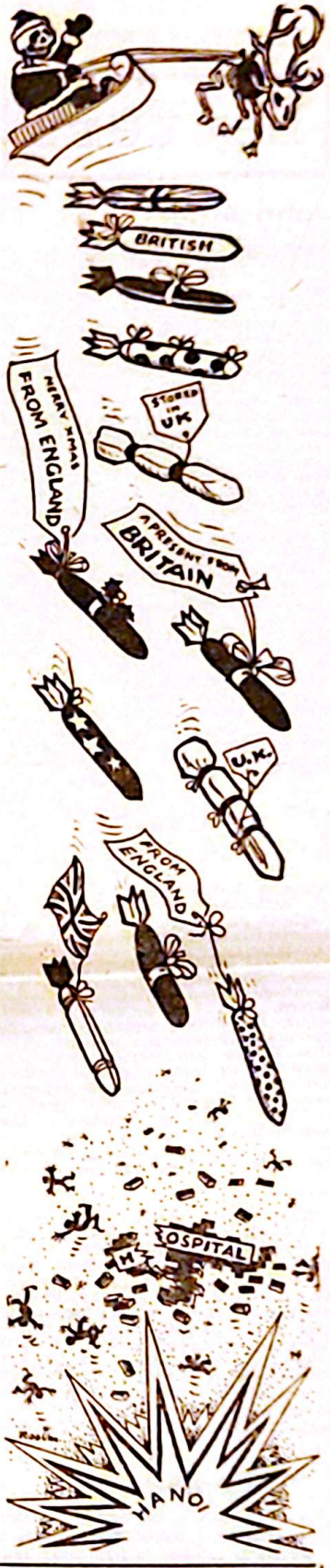

BOMBS FROM U.K. ON HANOI

Up to 1,500 tons of bombs used in the unprecedented bombing of Vietnam over Christmas probably came from a USAF munitions store near Reading.

One month before Christmas, three weeks before the start of the bombing, residents of Newbury and Thatcham in Berkshire began to complain that American planes taking off and landing from the USAF base at Greenham Common were unusually and excessively noisy. Had we but made the connections, the sleepless nights that those people suffered could have given warning of the most massive bombing campaign in the history of the world, warning that the Paris peace talks were about to end, warning that President Nixon was about to demonstrate that he is the unchallenged ruler of the world capable of taking us to within only one step of nuclear war.

The USAF Third Air Force headquarters even admitted that their largest cargo planes were being used to ship armaments from their munitions base at RAF Welford.

They claimed that the munitions were being sent to the USA. The *Reading Evening Post* reported the shipments in its December 7 issue but none of the nationals picked up the story.

This is not the first time that shipments of bombs from Britain to Vietnam have come to light, and it is by comparison with the previous case that the prediction of the Christmas offensive could have been made. James Fenton writing in the *New Statesman* of June 30 revealed that large quantities of 750lb bombs were being moved through Sheerness, via Zeebrugge, to Vietnam. The government, after several days' incompetent stalling, finally admitted that these bombs were being moved for use in Vietnam. Anthony Howard then wrote, "I am grateful to the government for admitting that 21,000 standard 750lb bombs have left the country for use in Vietnam, and that they couldn't give a damn".

The similarities between the May/June shipments and this latest one are eerie: both were closely linked to major offensives. In June, the bombs were following on the massive May 8 escalation (when North Vietnamese cities were bombed, and Haiphong mined), presumably to make up losses; in December the munitions shipments led up to the Christmas bombing. In both cases US spokesmen claimed that the shipments were normal "refurbishment and replacement" of munitions; in both cases the shipments only came to light after the sleep of local residents had been disturbed (in the first case by lorries, in the second by planes), followed by fuss from a local councillor—and in both cases the armaments came from the USAF munitions store, RAF Welford.

We cannot be certain that the planes leaving Greenham Common in early December were carrying bombs—the US spokesman only admitted that "munitions" were being carried. But there are several pieces of circumstantial evidence which point almost undeniably to "munitions" meaning bombs for Vietnam.

First, Welford is a bomb storage area. When in October 1967 the USAF announced a £360,000 scheme to expand the storage area, they described it as a store for "bombs, aircraft rockets and cannon shells". In June last year they announced another expansion scheme, this time costing £1 million, but the spokesmen would give almost no details of this scheme, except that it would solve nearby Newbury's employment problems. Regular ammunition trains arrived from Cardiff and the West Coast of Britain until recently. Now they use trucks.

Second, there seems little reason to *fly* any other sort of munitions anywhere just at the moment. The US spokesman at the time claimed that, "it is not unusual to employ the C5 (the world's largest military cargo plane) in military airlifts, since the air force is integrating more and more of these aircraft into the cargo fleet". It is, however, undoubtedly most unusual to use any plane to return any "munitions" to the USA merely for renovation, and even more unusual to use the C5A Galaxy to do it. With each operational base in Britain there is a munitions maintenance squadron, so return of munitions to the States is unlikely to be as common as the USAF would like us to believe. And when they occasionally do return some, why ship it by plane? A USAF spokesman at the Third Air Force Headquarters answered the question for me roughly as follows: "USAF have this airlift capacity; if you have a railroad, you use it". But the US Government also has another, much cheaper railroad—it's called the US Navy. And the particular railroad they chose to use for the shipment, is particularly overburdened and expensive.

continued on page 3

What, then, must we do?

Last week Daniel Berrigan told a press conference in London that it is "quite possible that Nixon thinks of the war as another four-year project". The scattered remnants of anti-war feeling have somehow to be re-organised on that assumption. The US war machine must be sabotaged.

We have reported cases in the US where several railway truck-loads of 750 lb bombs were de-fused as they stood in a siding and where USAF planes were grounded by sabotage. A week before Christmas five members of the East Coast Conspiracy to Save Lives were arrested while ripping up railway lines leading out of a munitions depot. People's Blockaders in the US and Japan have sailed out in canoes to hinder the departure of munitions ships. In the US they have put their bodies on the line in front of ammunition trains. US and Japanese longshoremen have blocked ammunition ships.

Now bombs have left Britain for the heaviest-ever bombing and people have only noticed because the noise disturbed their sleep.

We now know that 9,000 tons of bombs (nine days bombing at the rate of last weekend) left RAF Welford for Indochina last year. This represents only a small part of the total that has left, and is an unknown proportion of the stocks that remain.

News of the movements from Greenham Common got to Peace News because a reader sent in a cutting from the Reading Evening Post. Thanks probably to the GPO, it arrived after the events it foretold.

Any munitions movement is news—we must be ready and the people of Britain must know when next the American forces are moving out munitions for Vietnam. Even if there is a cease fire, President Nixon has pledged to provide Thieu with the weapons he needs. Some of those weapons may come from Britain.

GI readers please continue to keep us in touch with developments. If you live near a USAF or RAF base, find out from the people who work there what it does.

We believe that there are munitions bases in Welford (Berks), West Ruislip (Middlesex), Burtonwood (Lancs), Holy Loch and possibly Woodbridge (Suffolk). We need to know much more about them. We are advocating that the Official Secrets Act be broken.

If these stocks could be rendered harmless or their transport hindered, it could have a significant effect on the US war effort.

Letters

John Arden replies

What a curiously nasty little article about me by Ian Dougall, to be sure (December 15), and how agreeable of you to send me a buckshee copy of the newspaper to make certain that I read it! It doesn't really deserve an answer—would a writ perhaps be more appropriate? Never mind, I'm not going to issue one. I won't explain why not—my motives can always be discovered by discreet research in the regions of "theatrical gossip", and any joke that I may have made late at night to a tired actor (whom I hardly know) can easily enough be produced in evidence. Nevertheless, as Mr Dougall does write for *Peace News** (which I always respected, though of late I have come to disagree with it), I cannot let everything he says pass without comment.

First: the "chief complaint" of myself and Miss D'Arcy against the RSC was *not* the way in which the play was being produced. We had a straightforward dispute with that company over our conditions of work, and we went on strike upon this issue in a formal and correct fashion, working through our Trade Union—the Society of Irish Playwrights, which gave its full support to the demands we made to the management. We have also had a great deal of support from other playwrights, who have recognised that an important principle of industrial relations was at stake. It was, of course, in the interest of the RSC to pretend that their status vis-a-vis authors is not that of an employer dealing with employees. They like to put it about that all members of the "artistic team" are friends and equal associates struggling together towards the same creative goal. Thus any difficulty that arises can the easier be presented as no more than a clash of temperaments between director and writer. Which makes it all out to be a picturesque, non-political and fundamentally harmless situation. But it won't wash. Miss D'Arcy and myself were paid money by the management for services rendered, on a lump-sum and day-work basis: and trade unions were formed—Second: we did not "protest in the nonviolent tradition". We *mounted a picket*, in the normal (and much older and more effective) tradition of any group of workers on strike against their employer. The purpose of a picket is to alert fellow-workers to the existence of a dispute, and—if possible—to obtain their solidarity. This is quite often done in other industries. (Mr Dougall may perhaps have read of cases in the newspapers.) Without picketing, a strike is often ignored, and finally defeated, and no-one will realise until too late that it has even taken place. Certainly the RSC did their best to conceal the fact that we were on strike.

Third: the suggestion by Mr Dougall that I should have committed some class of terrorist outrage at the Aldwych is simply very silly. Such things have, of course, been done from time to time by frustrated strikers, and nearly always with disastrous results. I have no interest in the death of David Jones, nor in the burning of the Aldwych. I do have an interest in the formation of a Union of British Playwrights.

Fourth: the unqualified statement that I am now "a communist, dedicated to violent struggle" is worse than simply silly. It is a classic piece of felon-setting, calculated to bring about my eventual arrest in Ireland under the newly-amended Offences-Against-The-State Act, passed through the Dail a few weeks ago. I require your newspaper, if you please, to print either a public retraction and apology, or accurate chapter-and-verse from my own work to prove Mr Dougall's contention. (The bits he quotes from my preface to *The Bagman* do not prove anything of the sort: they are anyway out of context—the context must include the play as well as the preface). I am not "dedicated to violent struggle": and the word "communist" these days means as many different things as there are readers of it. What it is most likely to mean in the 26 Counties is the attentions of the political police.

Finally, I seem to have upset Mr Dougall by shifting my political opinions in a direction contrary to "the general flow". . . . Since when did *Peace News* lay down a standard of conformity to accepted behaviour and indulge in harmful personal attacks upon individuals who did not appear to follow the main-stream? Truly, when British liberalism goes rotten it turns up a much worse stink than the most rancid Tory garbage.

Yours etc,
John Arden,
Gort Roe, Corandulla.

Eds: John Arden, of course, knows more about his political opinions than we do, so we are glad to hear he is not "dedicated to violent struggle". Ian Dougall will reply next week.

*PN, after all, is widely read by intelligent people all over the world—in India I found it to have an influence out of all proportion to its circulation. It is therefore all the more necessary for contributors to bear in mind the possible effects of the articles they write upon readers who do not share a metropolitan involvement with "theatrical gossip" and such-like, and who are not able to assess at first hand the accuracy or otherwise of facts stated in the paper's pages.

Northern Ireland is unconstitutional

A word or two on the Mike/Bob interchange (December 15 and November 24).

As British policy has consistently aggravated the situation in Northern Ireland since before the plantations, it is plainly illogical to think that a continued British presence can contribute anything to lessening the sectarianism. Sectarianism has grown increasingly as British military presence has grown, and previously it has only abated in periods of total working-class apathy. The Alliance Party's origins come from that wing of Unionism that has wanted working-class apathy more than anything else; it may be non-sectarian, but hardly laudable.

The history of the emergence of the Northern Ireland statelet demonstrates (a) that the British army can never be relied on to dismantle independent Protestant military power (assuming that such a policy is meaningful), and (b) the word "Loyalist" has a peculiar significance—the first calls to separate Ireland from England came from Protestant settlers (who like the settlers in the American states a little later, and those in Rhodesia more recently) chaffed at Whitehall limitations on their power to exploit the "Wild Irish".

I am not generally in favour of turning to use constitutional means but I think one could, in the present situation, get some rewards simply by pointing out widely that the Treaty establishing the Six County statelet was signed to operate for a period of 50 years—this in 1922. With the widest interpretation of it, the Treaty therefore ceased to be valid on New Year's Day. That is, there is no constitutional validity to the Northern Ireland state from New Year's Day.

The Referendum is obviously designed to give it a new validity, but the limitation of that Referendum to a six county area which has no legal separate existence can be said to invalidate it as a referendum. This would still leave it open to hold either a county by county referendum, or perhaps to negotiate for an all-Ulster referendum.

Of course—since in politics might is right, and since though Government MPs talk at length about the need to respect the law and the proper place to oppose the Industrial Relations Bill being in the Commons, they did not expect to be similarly bound themselves—one cannot hope that merely by pointing out the constitutional position, any notice will be taken. But there is reason to suppose that a campaign in England stressing that point, coupled perhaps with legal pleas in Northern Ireland that the state has no legal standing, might bear fruit. The Derry marchers—if arrested—could perhaps make this a legal test case.

There were certainly some secret clauses to the 1922 Treaty, but judging from the intentions of those who signed it, these were not designed to prolong partition indefinitely; whether or not the majority of residents in the six counties—as an artificial unit—might wish for prolongation. (My father's elder brother was Judge Advocate in Dublin during the independence struggle and had Ulster landowning family connections. After my uncle's death, as before, father had had access to uncle's copy of the Treaty and I can remember discussing it with him—father died in '46—and, though they were Unionists, both were of the opinion that under the terms of the Treaty, Ireland was to be re-united after 50 years.)

Obviously this was an elitist attitude, but though Uladh has been divided before—it was at one time three kingdoms—the present statelet is still artificial, and to demand that its people, as a unit and excluding all others, shall have the right of self-determination, is to prejudge the issue, shuffling the cards so that only one side can win.

Best,

Laurens Otter,
13 Albert Road,
Wellington, Shrops.

Featherstone's future

In essence, Mr. Featherstone's egregious and diffuse jottings (*Peace News*, December 22, 1972) amount to the following two propositions:

(i) that an unholy alliance of Western pacifists, anarchists and Trotskyists might succeed in crushing the Vietnamese Revolution where the Japanese, the French, Diem, "Special War", US invasion, "Vietnamisation", and technological warfare have all failed; and
(ii) that no Asian patriotic national movement has the moral entitlement to shoot in self-defence, the number of victims being bad enough without "unnecessarily" (understood) adding some of the aggressors to an already horrifying casualty list.

A lucrative future awaits Mr. Featherstone in the White House in Dr. Strangelove's (sorry, Dr. Kissinger's) shoes—or perhaps he sees himself cast in the role of the late unlamented John Paul Vann?—but I'm afraid his article will excite nothing but derision and contempt in Asia. Accordingly, I grieve for *Peace News*.

Fraternally,
Malcolm Caldwell,
22 Beechhill Rd,
London SE9.

WRI and Greenpeace

As a WRI staff member I feel I should explain why the WRI Executive Committee did not endorse the Greenpeace (Stop the French Tests) Project (see last week). WRI does, of course, support the aims and objectives of the Greenpeace campaign, but decided not to give formal backing to the project as it was felt that the methods and strategy of Greenpeace needed to be more clearly defined.

This decision was not made from a negative position of "purer than thou" but was intended to be a positive gesture of encouragement to Greenpeace to clarify its position regarding nonviolence.

In fact, the staff of WRI have been authorised to endorse the project if, and when Greenpeace formulates a definite policy including a clear commitment to nonviolence.

Peace and Justice,
Ben Makins,
WRI, 3 Caledonian Rd,
London N1.

P.S. I would like to point out that I was not responsible for including "(no relation)" after Eva Bormann's name in my report of the European Work Group meeting in last weeks issue.

Merrie Humbug

"Happy Christmas"—Bah, HUMBUG! —that's the last thing you really want us to have, so why put such a nauseating hypocrisy at the end of John Ball (December 22), and then double it? There, facing, is an American Indian in the process of being exterminated; turn over, and all hell is being bombed out of Vietnam; go inside to be reminded of the horror that was Biafra, followed by pages upon pages of minority massacre in South America and mass murder in Vietnam, perpetrated by the North Americans. "Happy Christmas", you say (in small print, at least); you know it isn't, and won't be for a long time. Maybe next year you could make a Christmas issue that, for a change, looks on the positive side, looks at some of the small steps that have been taken towards a better world, at the few glimmers of hope. I can't say what these might be in the future, but if you'd done it this year, you might have put on the positive side of the scale the pow-wow, however fruitless, on the Stockholm environment, the attainment of Zero Population Growth in the USA and progress towards it in Britain—and the prospect, at last, of free pills for all. Next year (now I shall say it), perhaps, we can hope to celebrate the stopping of the Concorde, the decision to do without a third London airport, the dropping of plans to Chunnel the Tannel, and a decision to allow bicycles back on the roads. Whether we'll be able to add to this score anything really significant, like the abandonment of Polaris or the Bomb, or the ending of the genocide in Vietnam, seems quite unlikely—I'm a veteran gloom-doom-monger myself. But maybe, in the next decade, when the oil really starts to run out . . .? Most likely we'll all be bombing hell out of the Middle East by then in a final scramble for the black gold, in the same way many of us now pursue the honour of killing the last whale . . . There I go again . . . Merrie Humbug to y'all.

Scrooge,
c/o Loom Cottage,
36 Loom Lane,
Radlett, Herts.

Correction

Last week's Issue—

We have been asked to point out that the full title of the Dutch WIZA is: Werkgroep Indianen Zuid-Amerika, and that the photo on page 2 was published without the permission of the photographer, Ata Kando.

Also, in our story *Manhunt*, on the extermination of the Aché Indians (*Peace News*, December 22), we stated that the photographs were taken by Mark Munzel. We now learn that this is not in fact the case, they were made available to him by Mr Hofmann. The photographer cannot be named since he is still in Paraguay.

This week

Not only does power corrupt—it also attracts in the first place. In Indochina—a war, says Daniel Berrigan, intended to show the Third World where it stands in relation to technology and power—Nixon, as Johnson before him, has shown himself to be "the bully with an airforce". And, as our front page news underlines, Britain is one of his gang.

The Indochina war is not an accident, but the predictable product of our war-making societies—societies that are so structured they require war, armies, prisons, to survive; societies founded on domination of man over woman, humankind over nature, rich over poor. On page 4, JOHN PAPWORTH—who, when editor of Resurgence, did much to develop a critique of "bigness"—argues that pacifists should be primarily concerned with the structural order of society. On page 5, three members of the European Work Group for an Alternative Society discuss their group which tries to combine resisting and challenging war and oppression with creating a new society.

* * *

In William Morris' utopia News from Nowhere, Old Hammond ridicules "that silly 19th century fashion . . .of ignoring all the steps by which their daily dinner was reached". On the other side of the plate, is our silly 20th century ignorance of what happens to our waste when we "dispose" of it. We are so out of touch with the basic art of living lightly on the earth that our whole life-style is bedevilled by unrealism. On page 6, P. R. BIRCH and D. GELDART follow through what happens to our refuse.

"How much was the British Government a party to Nixon's appalling decision?"

continued from page 1

From Berkshire to Hanoi

The Lockheed C5A Galaxy is a new plane, there are only some 30 such planes in operations, with a further 81 on order. All these C5As are based in the USA and are regularly used to fly supplies to South East Asia.

This particular cargo was needed somewhere in a hurry. That somewhere could only be Vietnam. The cargo was almost certainly bombs destined to be dropped as Christmas presents for North Vietnamese city-dwellers. Added support for this theory is given by the difficulty that the *Reading Evening Post* experienced in getting answers from the USAF. The planes started arriving on Friday December 1, and after night flying on December 2 and 3 the protest of local residents had reached a crescendo, but it was not until December 6 that a USAF spokesman was willing to give any confirmation of the flights. The *Post* reporter was told that the Third Air Force Headquarters first contacted their European Headquarters for clearance; then he believes Europe contacted higher authority still—the Pentagon.

Only after the Pentagon had given the go-ahead was the nonsense about "refurbishment and replacement" issued. When the *Post* story finally appeared, the mention of Vietnam caused considerable heat at the USAF HQ. Fortunately for the Americans none of the defence correspondents for the nationals took up the story, though most were contacted by the *Post*, and no sympathetic MPs could be found at that time to carry on the good work in Parliament.

Why take bombs from Britain?—because the North Vietnamese are getting them faster than the American arms trade can supply them, and because Britain is a major warehouse for American bombs. Apparently American Intelligence (and for that matter British) expects that if there were a war between NATO and the Warsaw Pact using "conventional weapons", the Warsaw forces would reach Amsterdam, and the Channel, within three to five days. Hence they keep the majority of their "NATO commitment" of weapons in storage bases in a fall-back position—Britain. USAF 7324 Ammunition Support Squadron—otherwise known as RAF Welford (because the land is owned by the RAF)—is only one of many such bases. When I asked the proverbial USAF HQ spokesman (his name is Mr Denmark and his number is 0638-712511 ex 2242, for those who are interested) how important Welford is, he said, "a storage area—we have many storage areas".

When writing about the Sheerness incident James Fenton argued that the Americans had simply run out of bombs. He quoted the case of the BLU-26 minibomb as an example where the American arms industry had been unable to keep up with the demands of the Pentagon; and he quoted an American arms company executive writing that some people are getting "fed up with Pentagon procurement foul-ups". Since June many bombs have been dropped. It is likely the Americans are still short of bombs.

I understand that the morale of American forces in Britain is close to an all-time low, because they have very few bombs to look after and almost no planes to fly. Lakenheath base—one of the five operational USAF bases in Britain (as opposed to Greenham Common which is one of three stand-bys)—recently had only 12 Phantoms, instead of their complement of 36. The rest had been sent to Vietnam to make up losses there. Unfortunately no-one was available at Lakenheath to confirm this when I rang.

A crater caused by a 750lb bomb. In June, 21,000 750lb bombs went to Vietnam via Sheerness.

There is one more reason for the Pentagon to draw on bomb stocks in Britain. In the States the activities of the Ad Hoc Military Buildup Committee (which has been supplying munitions movement figures from a massive GI network) and of the People's Blockades (which have been making munitions movements embarrassingly public in many ports) perhaps deter them from large munitions movements there at a time when "peace agreements" are said to be pending. The Pentagon no doubt noticed the lack of fuss which greeted the revelations in June, that Britain—Co-Chairman of the Geneva Conference—was storing some of the arms for their war.

It is very unlikely that the two shipments from the Welford base represent the sum of US arms shipments from Britain. Sheerness, a relatively minor port, was only used because the quota limitations (under the acts covering the transport of explosives) for other ports had been expended. Presumably ports like Liverpool, London, Manchester and so on, carried considerably more than the 7,000 tons odd that passed through Sheerness in May and June. They stopped shipping bombs out of Sheerness when the quota ran out on about June 20.

The planes started arriving at Greenham Common during Friday December 1, and continued throughout Saturday and Saturday night, only ending on Sunday evening. During Sunday the planes were arriving at about 1¼ hour intervals. Observers thought that two planes were involved, C141s and C5A Galaxies. The C5A has a range of some 3,000 miles with a load of 265,000 lb. The C141A (Starlifter!) has a capacity of 94,000 lb and a range of 4,200 miles. If we assume that one plane arrived every three hours on average during a 60-hour period, something like 1,500 tons of bombs were shifted. No figures have been released by the US for the tonnage of bombs dropped on Indochina during the Christmas bombing. Unconfirmed reports (the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Times*, December 20) suggest that 3,000 tons of bombs were dropped by B-52s in one day. On a very rough estimate, it seems that half the tonnage of bombs dropped on North Vietnam in one day around Christmas came from a store in Britain.

It is clear that by the end of November Nixon had decided to rain retribution on North Vietnam. The Pentagon advised that significant escalation ("to teach the gooks a lesson") would need more bombs than were available. Large stocks in Britain were therefore called in.

Presumably the three week gap between Nixon winning the election and his decision to start the bombing was some sop to public opinion—it would be just too unseemly, if ever word got out, for the President to have been seen plotting for four more years' war just at the time when he was being elected for ending the war. The three weeks between the decision to start bombing and the bombing beginning on December 18 was no doubt spent gathering forces and finalising details for the massive campaign.

The question remains how much the British Government was aware and a party to Nixon's appalling decision. If, as seems most probable, the explosives were transferred by road from RAF Welford to Greenham Common, then the Ministry of Defence will have known of the transfer. These were American bombs, but subject to British laws on transporting explosives. Until the Cabinet Papers are released for this period we will not know whether the Government knew at cabinet level. However, it seems a fair bet that British complicity has been much much more significant for the fate of Indochina than we can easily understand.

Ben Crow

Britain's continuing complicity

During and immediately after World War II, "there was no greater enemy of Vietnamese nationalism than British government policy" (The British in Vietnam, Rosie). Since 1961, Britain has more or less consistently backed what Daniel Berrigan calls the US "policy of extinction" not only politically and diplomatically, but materially and militarily.

- In September 1961—10 months after the founding of the NLF—a British Advisory Mission was set up in Saigon under Robert Thompson to adapt Malayan "strategic village" tactics to Vietnam. In 1971, Thompson did a two-month study of the South Vietnamese police force with three other British experts (three of whom were policemen, presumably with Home Office approval).
- US and South Vietnamese troops have been trained at the Jungle Warfare Training School at Batu Tiga, Malaya (between January 1964 and November 1967 it cost the UK £132,364 to train 1,035 South Vietnamese troops there).
- British submarines and frogmen based at Hong Kong have helped the US Navy clear the estuaries in South Vietnam.
- Britain has built at least one—probably two—military airfields in north-east Thailand.
- Britain has provided training facilities and dogs for US tracker dog teams.
- In 1968, 70,000 British troops in Malaysia and Singapore were committed to fight in Vietnam if the Chinese intervened.
- British scientists at Porton developed CS gas and passed the formula over to the US.
- The US Dept of Defence has given millions of dollars ($2,800,000 to 1966) in research contracts and grants to British industry, government establishments and 28 universities.
- British-made weapons, with silencing devices, carried by US forces on secret missions in Laos have been reported in *Newsweek*.
- British exports to the US have increased—especially of bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, guided weapons, ammunitions and parts. In 1967 by nearly 600%. From 1964-67 exports of chemical products was 310% and 275% in the case of pesticides and plant-killers, etc.
- Over 40 British firms have had contracts or cub-contracts from the US Dept of Defence. Firms directly involved are:
  - Westland Aircraft with a $48,930,000 contract to produce Sioux helicopters;
  - British Hovercraft Corp supplying SRN-5s for river patrol;
  - Bristol-Siddeley with a $1.5 million contract for barbed-wire for "strategic hamlets";
  - Decca Navigation Co supplying helicopter guidance;
  - Hawker Siddeley, Harrier Jump jets;
  - Short Bros, Skyvan aircraft;
  - Martin Baker, ejector suits;
  - Rolls-Royce and GEC, engines, computers and a pilot "head-up display" for the US Navy's Corsair.
- Of the 12 major US producers of napalm and other anti-personnel weapons, 10 have subsidiaries or associates in Britain. Honeywell has 28 offices, depots and factories.
- From 1965-71 Britain gave over £13 million in "financial and technical aid" to Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam. This has included road-building equipment, heavy lorries and Bailey bridges.
- Three US deserters who came to Britain are *known* to have been picked up by the British authorities and handed over to the US. It is likely that the total is more than 100.

Our first priority

John Papworth

Over the last decade something new and important has developed in the peace camp, but sometimes it seems that even the most ardent pacifists and the most committed peaceniks are unaware of the change and what it portends.

The anti-war movement, and I am using these different terms with studied deliberation, had its origins in just that—in a movement of protest and repudiation of war, especially the first world war. It must be difficult for the present generation to grasp the traumatic nature of the shock effect of World War One on the consciousness of the peoples of Europe; after all, World War Two killed far more people—and so probably did the Stalin policies and purges of the inter-war years—so why all the fuss?

We need to see that World War One was not a "normal" extension of the policies and assumptions of the governments of the day, as in many ways mass killing is today. Up to 1914 civilisation seemed to be making progress; the apparently worst horrors of factory labour conditions were behind us, flogging had been abolished in the army, and numerous voluntary organisations such as the RSPCA and the NSPCC (they were founded in that order) had arisen which gave practical expression of a developing humanitarian consciousness within our society, and which had parallel movements in other countries. Even more important to note is the kind of expectation which people had about life in general. Clearly things were getting better and were going to go on getting better; there were going to be *more schools, better hospitals, bigger welfare schemes, more assured provision for old age and so on. There were no* limits, it seemed, to the advances in human improvement that might be made in almost any field of endeavour. The reasoning behind this was far from being wholly fallacious: improvements of many kinds were going on which in toto meant that life for many human beings was getting better, and that people were learning to put a higher valuation on each human life . . . And then, within the short space of less than half a decade, this mood—this growing spirit of tolerance, generosity, and an almost fatalistic acceptance of the inevitability of progress—was confronted with the war mania of Europe, the mass butcheries of Passchendale, the Somme, Viny Ridge and the Dardanelles, and a general sense of individual helplessness as horror mounted upon horror.

The war ended from the mutual exhaustion—moral and material—of the combattant states, an exhaustion reflected in the meanness of the treaties imposed by the assumed victors on the assumed vanquished. Not unnaturally, men of decent mien looked around them and concluded, quite mistakenly as it happened, that war was the supreme evil and that the only sane thing they could do with their lives was to devote them to ending it.

Hence the appearance of anti-war movements in a number of countries in the '20s and a determination to spread the idea of pacifism as a personal belief in men's lives as the chief road to a world with no more war.

For several decades this approach held the field: the idea that if only enough individuals would take up the cause of pacifism then governments might be persuaded to embrace it too until wars would cease because men would no longer be ordered by their governments to fight. It is easy to see the snags in this approach in a world where one Dr Strangelove can destroy half the world in a war men are determined not to fight but have no way of effectively repudiating (to take but one example). What is surprising is that this approach continued to dominate the admittedly restricted field of anti-war politics until quite recently and, judging from the pages of *Peace News*, continues to do so for many people.

Nevertheless today it won't wash. With the clear failure of the Committee of 100 and of CND at a time when the war danger continues to grow, and with the pacifist movement itself reduced to a rump of the dewy-eyed young and of elderly has-beens, there is enough evidence to suggest that some of the premises of the pacifist movement as an anti-war body badly need rethinking.

Again, judging from the pages of *Peace News*, this rethinking is making headway. The point is now taken, it would seem, that pacifism as an end in itself is a mere exercise in moral priggishness, and that unless it is seen as a means to an end, it is bound to be no more than a hot-house plant which at once succumbs when the least blast of war is heard in our ears.

What then are the ends which pacifism is seeking to attain? It is elementary honesty to say that nobody knows. The variety of features which appear in *Peace News* over the years reflects, however, a growing concern with the question. Clearly community politics has a lot to do with it; so does "people's power" and involvement in people's problems at base; somehow it is all part of a wider spectrum in which concern for such matters as pollution, environmental squalor, wastage of finite resources and the social abuse of power is every bit as important as concern for war itself. It may well be even more important. Contrary to what we learn in our school geometry lessons, the shortest distance between two points is seldom a straight line, and it may well be that to learn to build and live in communities which are truly free, democratic, ecologically decent and environmentally satisfying is to have got rid of the spectre of war somewhere along the road to them as a matter of course.

However that may be, this concern for the structural order of society in terms of ending the war peril is a fairly new and hopeful departure. Pacifists may pat themselves on the back that Gandhi started a great deal of it, but Gandhi's concerns were not reflected in the journals of pacifist intent or even in the mode of life pacifists lived. (How many pacifists today, for example, think that the fact that they eat factory processed cereals such as cornflakes has nothing to do with the question of social structures and of war?) It is to the credit of many modern pacifists, and to the Editors of *Peace News*, that they have grasped that Gandhism is not something which can be left to rot within the covers of rarely read books, but has something important to say about getting ourselves out of our present doldrums and within reach of a war-free society.

But Gandhi, after all, was writing for India, a different country with different problems to any in Europe. He did not always think through his own solutions and he was not always consistent. What, for example, is one to make of his emphasis on community and at the same time his deep concern that Pakistan and India should not have separate existence?

There are numerous such questions that bother us in Europe. The Liberals in Britain, for example, are busy as usual trying to talk out of both sides of their mouths by giving full support to the United Europe for war movement and at the same time giving lip service to what they call "community politics". Sooner or later some politicians were bound to try to cash in on the whole movement for community politics by using its rhetoric and ignoring its imperatives in terms of community power.

Now that war mongers have accomplished their aim of getting the substance of European unity in defiance of the wishes of the British people, the great need is at least to recognise this fateful step as the body blow to peace prospects it is and to clarify in our own minds with the most flawless crystalline clarity just what it is we mean by community in terms of structure, power, tradition and intent. We can afford to concentrate on this for a few years to the exclusion of many other pressing considerations, if only because there are now many other bodies involved in them. *Our* concern is peace. And the nature of the kind of social order that will produce peace as naturally as our present ones produce war is surely, in the difficult and no doubt confusing times ahead, our first priority.

TOOLS

Europe's New Proletarians

Are we prepared to tolerate a European expansion based on the continued exploitation of cheap foreign labour? Jonathan Power's pamphlet *The New Proletarians* describes the plight of migrant workers in Common Market countries, including the "vast international cheap labour smuggling racket". In 1968 there were six million foreign immigrants in Common Market countries, by 1980 this may have doubled. 20% of France's manual working class are now foreigners. The Common Market Commissioner for Social Affairs says: "We've just not looked at this problem in any detail. . . . Our over-riding concern must be not to create a marginal group of 10 million, in an active population of 70 million, on whose back we create our prosperity".

"Yoro, the leader of the striking Africans in a slum Parisian foyer, was maybe getting near the truth when he told me . . . 'We'll end up like the Bantustans of South Africa—only good for supplying cheap labour'."

Price 10p from CCRU, 10 Eaton Gate, London SW1.

Movement

The first issue of *Movement* is just out. The paper looks like being an invaluable tool. It will contain a news synopsis indicating articles written in left and community papers, but will not cover news as such, concentrating on the development of ideas thrown up by, and through actions—thus contributing to the ongoing dialogue. It will come out monthly and will contain sections on: pamphlets, paperbacks, debate (in each issue one or more people will contribute to discussion of ideas and analysis), industrial notes, new laws, self-help, plus news of new groups, changes of addresses, new bookshops, media and info centres, GLF, women's liberation and research.

Subs are £1.00 pa, 50p for six months; publication is the first week of each month. From Movement, 14 Hanley Road, London N4.

Human Rights in Israel

The Union of Liberal Studies has produced a booklet on *Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Israel*. Disillusioning for those still taken in by the facade of liberal democracy that the Israeli government puts over so successfully, it contains information from the International Red Cross, and Amnesty, as well as Israeli sources. Facts and figures on political prisoners, torture of detainees, deportations, "second-class" citizenship, and the suppression of opposition.

Price 10p from ULS, 69 Blackfriars Road, London SE1.

The case against Concorde

Concorde: Ten years and a billion pounds later is a new publication of the Anti-Concorde project. It includes not only up-to-date details of the cost escalation, the authorities' duplicity, and the economic, social, and environmental reasons why the plane shouldn't be built; but also an analysis of just *why*, despite everything, the project continues—at a continuing loss to the British taxpayer of a million pounds a week. It costs 30p, and is available by post (33p) from Housmans, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

Self-help housing

SQUAT is a report on self-help housing methods used by squatters. Written by John Pollard, it is available from him at 93 Prince of Wales Rd, London NW6. Enclosed a stamped, self-addressed, recycled envelope.

Current Undercurrents

The current edition of *Undercurrents* contains an invaluable "Alternative Technology—a guide to sources and contacts" section, put together by Peter Harper and Bjorn Eriksson and a complementary guide to alternative periodicals by Martin Richards.

Undercurrents costs 25p and can be obtained from bookshops with an eye to the future or a subscription (£2.00 per annum) from **34 Chomley Gardens, Alfred Rd, London NW6.**

Dutch communes mag

CORMALLAN is a bi-monthly journal of the Dutch commune movement. News and discussion of Dutch and international commune scenes. In Dutch with an English summary: 10p for a single issue, £1.00 for 15. Also quarterly English edition for 15p. **From Postbus 10065, Amsterdam, Holland.**

US aid to Thieu

NARMIC (National Action/Research on the Military-Industrial Complex), a special project of the American Friends Service Committee, has published a long, well-documented report on the nature of US aid to the Thieu régime in South Vietnam, and its effect on the Vietnamese people. The authors, Lê Anh Tú and Marilyn McNabb, describe in great detail—using American and Vietnamese sources—the activities of the South Vietnamese authorities, and the role of the American manpower, equipment, and money in keeping Thieu in power. AFSC (112 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102 USA) issued the report a few months ago, and it should be available in this country shortly through Housmans (5 Caledonian Road, London N1).

EUROPEAN LIFE CENTRE

Over the new year, the European Work Group for an Alternative Society was meeting in London. Three members of the Work Group—June Mitchell, Satish Kumar, and Eric Bachman—came to Peace News to talk with us about the Group and about the European Life Centre set up by the Group at Gross-Heere where they live.

Eric: The European Work Group originated in August 1971 at a meeting called by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation in Holland. There was a group of activists—many young, and also some older ones—who got together and decided that they wanted to be more active than they were at that time. They made three proposals: to begin the Work Group, to get a full-time co-ordinator and then, at some time in the future, to start a centre. The goal was always transnational action. There's very little connection between actions in different countries, yet oppressive structures are transnational, like multi-national corporations.

There are about 15 people in the Work Group. We meet every two or three months for weekends and once a year for 10 days. Co-workers are committed to attend most of the meetings, all if possible. They're all active locally: the aim is to bring a transnational consciousness to their local activity.

Satish: All these people are working on a grass roots level and come together to plan how these activities can be linked, so that we are not isolated doing one thing in our own locality but are part of a movement, bringing a sense of solidarity to the peace and nonviolent movements.

Most of the members of the Work Group have been involved in some kind of international action before. Now we want to create a network of people—individuals, groups, communities—working on alternative society structures, not only protesting but creating something new at the same time. The emphasis is more on nonviolence than peace—peace has been anti-Bomb, anti-NATO, but nonviolence is much more involved in alternative living.

Does the Work Group plan to set up action groups?

Eric: We're not setting up new groups as such, but are working with groups already existing, and we want to work not only with nonviolent groups but with other groups with similar interests who are willing to work together in a nonviolent way, for example anti-imperialist groups.

June: We can share our experience with nonviolent groups that are just being established in a particular country and give them added encouragement. For instance, Eric travels and does a lot of training.

Isn't there a danger of the Gross-Heere community becoming an elite within the Group?

Satish: No. This is not a centre for the people who are physically there but a centre for the whole Work Group.

June: At the evaluation at the end of our London meeting, Peter Jones said that he'd been anticipating that there'd be a rift between the people at the Centre and others in the Group. But he was happy to find that there wasn't.

How does the Group communicate between meetings?

Eric: I meet other co-workers in the Work Group on my travels, but mainly they come to Gross-Heere to see us.

Satish: The Group has no chairman, no secretary, no letterhead yet. All co-workers except one write letters every month about what they've been doing and thinking. This is one of our strongest channels of internal communication.

June: And this means that you can get closer to people who find it easier to express themselves on paper than in person at a weekend.

Eric: We are interested in creating a network of groups throughout Europe, contacting groups, finding out what they are and what they're doing, so that for certain campaigns we know who to contact.

June: The idea of having our meetings in a different country each time is so that we can meet groups and individuals who are involved in actions.

Satish: And this weekend we decided that when we meet we will focus our discussion on the particular country we're in. What is the political situation? What is the state of the peace, nonviolent, alternative movements? What possibilities are there for arousing new movements? How best to confront the situation there?

What are your guidelines for action?

Satish: When we choose a project, we want to find a balance of emotional and rational reasons. So first we must have interest, but then we have criteria: it should not be merely a protest action; it should involve some alternative structures; it should have the potential to involve all the members of the Work Group; it should be transnational; it should have a realisable goal; it should fit into our long-term vision.

At our meeting in London we decided on two levels of action: short- and long-term. In the short-term, there are two projects we might take up. One is a Namibia Caravan, the other is Greenpeace (Stop the French Tests). The long-term we divided into three: sexism, ecology and (mainly economic) exploitation. Each leads to alternative structures.

Eric: In the next two or three months, we will study these three areas intensively before we decide which we will concentrate on. We will decide at our next meeting which of the short-term projects to concentrate on. We plan the short-term action for the summer.

June: The short-term action is partly to start us working together as a group. Clearly at the Work Group's Centre at Gross-Heere, the community is going to be interested in sexism and ecology even if these are not selected for long-term campaigning.

Where is Gross-Heere?

Eric: Gross-Heere is a village of about 850 people about 18 miles from each of three cities in north-east West Germany —Hildesheim, Goslar and Brunswick— and very close to Salzgitter, which is a large industrial complex of smaller cities, and about 36 miles from Hanover.

At Gross-Heere, there is now a community of nine people: Adriano and Rosa from Italy and their two children, Satish and June, Eva who owns the house, Herman who is also from Germany, and me.

Satish: The centre at Gross-Heere is the first project of the Group: to start a learning community to study, practise and live nonviolence, the first base for the European Work Group. It's not like an office, it's a community set-up. We spend half our time working intellectually and the other earning our own living. We moved there 10 weeks ago and even for that time we have been self-supporting.

Eric: We're trying to set up half-time jobs. At the moment we haven't had our first crop of vegetables, so we're not entirely self-sufficient and need to have some money coming in.

You're invited to three months at Gross-Heere

Satish: Some of the physical work we have been doing is at the Centre, like gardening, and part of it is outside, like truck-driving and massage. Massage for me is a way of non-verbal communication. I cannot speak German but through massaging people in the village I have come to feel very close to them and have a trust-building relationship.

This is the only Centre the Work Group is able to start now. We hope there will be others.

Eric: We want to link up with other Centres, particularly ones with a transnational look about them. One of the important aspects of ours is that there are people of several nationalities living in it, so there is contact between different cultures.

Satish: There are five areas we want to focus on at the Centre: understanding the nature of society, political, economic, ecological etc; self-realisation, de-conditioning, sensitisation etc; learning the practical skills of how to live in this small planet; how to communicate what we are living and doing with the people; and sharing what we are learning with other people.

Our first immediate plan is to start three-month sessions beginning in March. These will not be just for people ing, and study the total view of life in to learn action-oriented skills, though they will include that, but to experience the community, learn crafts and garden-society, seeing the political, social, spiritual problems linked together. We hope to have three of these sessions a year, with a month between them. We can then have 40-60 new people and coming and learning and then going back to their countries and organising similar things on a local level.

Eric: People should learn by experiencing, doing, taking part. When I go somewhere to lead direct action training, one or two people could come with me. I'm sure we'll also get into specific seminars on topics, but this will depend on who comes. We're thinking of setting up a Macroanalysis Seminar to analyse and see the whole world around us and how it can be changed.

June: We've had the opportunity to try a community life together. Every day some little point of our past conditioning becomes obvious to us. We are all learning. There are people who feel, "I think I'd like to live in a community, but I'm not sure and don't want to commit myself to a particular one". This is an opportunity for people who are interested in community life to come and see how they like it.

We are calling this first session from March 1. But we're not expecting 10 people to turn up on our doorstep on March 1 prompt. We hope they can come at approximately the same time and we want them to stay for three months. People will either have to find sponsorship or actually use what skills they have to pay their way when they're at the Centre.

Contact: EWG, D-3321 Gross-Heere, Nr 60, West Germany.

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Peace News,
5 Caledonian Road,
London N1.

World War II, when the "chips were down", we were much more aware of the value of our throw-outs.

Chase that SCRAP!
Iron and steel scrap is needed—urgently. Get it into the scrap merchants' hands! For the sake of the whole national effort—send in your scrap.

"Dynamic obsolescence", the drive to make what is useful today unacceptable tomorrow; to make what fitted the "standard of living" in 1970 inappropriate even for 1973, has become part of contemporary Western life. Our efforts to consume more goods often rise to heroic levels and we discard them wantonly, caring little for their resource value, knowing less of their destiny. Our approach to our own offal is crystallised in a pernicious little piece of modern gadgetry—the kitchen waste disposal unit, every scrap we find we grind, out of sight and out of mind.

We publish below a shortened version of a memorandum "Domestic Refuse: a plea for maximum re-use and how this might be achieved", by P. R. Birch and D. Geldart of the University of Bradford School of Chemical Engineering. Calling for a saner approach to "refuse disposal" on the part of local authorities and following through what happens and what should happen to our discarded chattels once they have left our homes. But though these measures will ameliorate the situation, we cannot rely on technology solving its own pollution problems, on governments making more than token gestures. There is much we can do now, in our everyday lives (see the Greenpeace leaflet, £1 for 100 from Peace News individual copies free with stamped addressed envelopes). In some Australian cities there are "neighbourhood swap weeks". Household effects are put out on the pavements for a week, people help themselves and, instead of buying more, give their houses a new look by using other people's throw-outs.

P.R.

Recycling waste

About 90% of the 15 million tons of domestic refuse collected annually by local authorities in the United Kingdom is tipped and covered over. Sometimes tipping makes waste or low-lying ground suitable for subsequent use (as playing fields, etc). But land is becoming increasingly scarce near the big cities and towns (the big producers of refuse). Local authorities are therefore increasingly looking to total incineration as a means of solving their disposal problems. Few incineration plans have provision for recovering the heat produced during combustion or for reclaiming valuable materials in the incinerator feed or discharge.

Our society continues to throw away (and dispose of mainly by re-burial) *over a million tons of metal in domestic refuse in the UK alone. The nation's bill for imported newsprint is about* £100 million a year, yet we bury waste paper worth £64 million. Most of the authorities which burn household rubbish do not recover the heat evolved, although natural gas and oil may become increasingly scarce during the projected life-time of their incinerators. (The heat content of refuse from which incombustibles have been removed is about half that of coal.)

Reclamation results in a wide range of benefits, eg the recovery of metals from refuse is effected without the ecologically disruptive side effects from the mining and smelting of primary metal. (Mining often involves digging huge open pits and amassing enormous spoil heaps. Smelting has, in the past, resulted in the discharge to the atmosphere of millions of tons of sulphur dioxide and other pollutants.) The energy required to re-melt scrap is a small fraction of the energy consumed in mining and smelting the same quantity of primary metal.

Most sections of the community use narrowly-based "internal" accounting systems which show that the activities they engage in are of considerable benefit to the groups themselves. However, if those activities included the so-called "external" costs and were considered in terms of their effects on the whole community, on the environment and on the rate of resource depletion, we are convinced that the benefits would be much less clear-cut.

Composition of domestic refuse

As more people heat their homes using natural gas, oil and electricity, the proportion of ash and cinders from open fires will decrease. In spite of the increasing use of plastics for packaging, such materials are expected to contribute only a small fraction of the total volume of household rubbish collected in 1980. Most will continue to be made up from waste paper. Discarded food and drink containers such as tin cans and foil trays are expected to remain the main source of metal.

The volume of domestic refuse will double during this decade and its weight will increase by 70%. This should become increasingly looked upon as a valuable source of raw materials rather than as a nuisance to be disposed of. Very few of the major constituents of household rubbish cannot be re-used in some way.

Most domestic refuse consists of paper and cardboard. Some local authorities already collect waste paper separately, compact it and sell it to board and paper manufacturers. The current practice at Bradford Corporation's refuse disposal plant is to sort out waste paper manually after dust and cinders have been removed from the incoming mixed refuse by rotary screens. Some paper manufacturers both in this country and overseas use only salvage as raw material. The Garden State Paper Company of New Jersey, estimate that they avoid felling some 20,000 trees every day by so doing.

47% of the raw materials used by the American paper industry is made up from recycled material, roughly half being waste paper (from all sources) and the other half wood residues such as sawdust and wood chips. The record in this country is similarly encouraging; about a third of the raw materials used by the British paper industry is made up from waste paper. But an estimated 50% of waste paper could be recycled without much extra effort.

Vegetable and putrescible matter

During and immediately after the 1939-45 war many local authorities provided neighbourhood bins into which kitchen waste could be placed for separate collection. This was used as pig food or composted. Some local authorities (such as that in Jersey) still separate vegetable wastes from conventionally collected refuse for composting. In Holland, composting of domestic refuse is carried out on a large scale at a few strategically located sites.

Artificial fertilisers improve crop yields in the short term, but used exclusively they slowly destroy the bacteria in the soil. Their manufacture involves considerable use of energy and the mining of minerals such as phosphate and potash. Ultimately, they enter the ground water and can cause eutrophication in lakes and streams. Compost not only improves the humus content of the soil but also acts as a reservoir of nutrients which are slowly released to the plants. If every family who owned a garden would compost their vegetable waste instead of discarding it, the pressure on the refuse collection service would be reduced and the fertility of their gardens improved. Perhaps some of the families not doing this might be willing to put vegetable matter into separate bags for communal composting.

Metals

Well over a million tons of iron are thrown away every year. Yet ferrous metal can be recovered easily by magnetic separation. Non-ferrous metals are less easily separated. Current methods rely heavily on manual sorting. However, a Finnish mining company has developed a method of detecting lumps of non-ferrous metals on conveyor belts using equipment that depends on the same principle that is exploited in mine detectors.

Another difficulty in trying to reclaim metals from domestic refuse is that most discarded consumer products are made up from a mixture of metals. At present there are few economical methods of separating these components. The choice seems to be a labour-intensive manual dismantling job or grinding everything up to form small, uni-metallic particles and separating these automatically (according to density) in a fluidised bed.

Glass bottles

The growth of supermarkets and the associated servicing of retail displays by the producer/distributor rather than by the retailer himself have contributed to the packaging revolution typified by the one-trip bottle. If labour-saving can be achieved in the distribution of full bottles, surely empty bottles can be collected equally economically. Perhaps if the manufacturer had to contribute towards the cost of disposing of unreturned bottles he might be more willing to make use of the empty space on his lorries when they return to the warehouse.

Again, manual sorting is relied upon for the recovery of glass bottles. Broken glass can be used again by glass manufacturers. Small quantities are used for road surfacing. In England, one local authority is collaborating with the Building Research Unit in investigating the possibility of using glass for manufacturing blocks. Reclaimed glass could be used in the manufacture of glass-fibre.

Plastics

At least one analyst has rejected the possibility of salvaging plastics—largely because of the wide variety of different types we use, the tenuous nature of the films used for packaging and the drastic effect on the reclaimed plastics' properties of fairly small quantities of dirt, etc. Nonetheless extruders incorporating intensive shredding and mixing mechanisms which, it is claimed, can accept mixtures of both thermoplastic and thermosetting plastics containing a considerable proportion of paper and other contraries, have been designed.

Perhaps plastic refuse could be used more profitably to eke out our limited supplies of fossil fuels. The heat evolved when plastics are burned could be recovered and used in district heating schemes or to generate electricity. Municipal authorities might use "waste" heat to dry sewage sludge or to heat the water in the town's swimming pool. One disadvantage of incinerating refuse is the production of air pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, hydrochloric acid gas, and chemical compounds of toxic heavy metals such as lead and cadmium. Suitable gas-cleaning equipment would thus be an important part of any large-scale incinerator used to burn plastics.

Treatment systems

Local authorities all too often neglect reclamation as "uneconomic". We shall briefly outline some alternatives to indicate the possibilities which exist.

Separation at source

The separation of the different components of mixed refuse is difficult to achieve at low cost. One solution is the disposal of different categories of waste into separate containers by householders. It should be possible to design a foolproof refuse collection, transportation and baling system flexible enough to handle different proportions of paper, bottles, tin cans, organic material and mixed waste.

Processing mixed refuse

A wide range of processing schemes for mixed refuse can be envisaged. The most common method of solids separation is hand-sorting (often supplemented by magnetic separation) but several other low-cost processes can be employed, such as screening, magnetic and electronic separation and sorting by chemical methods. Most of these techniques are well established in the mineral processing and other industries. Other methods are under development.

These could be arranged around a composting plant. Raw refuse is sorted, on rotating screens, and passed under a magnetic separator to recover the tin-cans. The remaining coarse material is pulverised and enters a digestor in which bacterial activity reduces the organic constituents to compost. As the composting stage results in a physical breakdown of the organics, it is possible to separate larger, inert fragments (such as pieces of plastic, lumps of glass and metal) simply by sieving at this stage. Non-ferrous metals and plastics can be separated from glass and rubble by using equipment that exploits their differences in density.

The heat content of refuse can be recovered by incinerating what remains after inerts (glass bottles, tin cans and rubble) have been removed. (It is important to separate aluminium foil and tin-plate prior to incineration, otherwise they undergo oxidation, rendering them much less valuable.) Dynamic (ballistic) sorting techniques can separate paper and plastics from more dense, compact material.

Incineration not only produces heat for raising steam to generate electricity or to warm buildings, but also results in an inert residue which can be used as land-fill or for making building blocks without any danger of polluting ground-water or spreading infection.

At the present time, any refuse disposal system which involves recovery and recycling of materials may prove to be more expensive (on a purely "internal" accounting system) than tipping or total incineration. However, we believe that on an overall accounting base which includes environmental factors, the maximum recovery and re-use of materials can be shown to be highly desirable, and in the long run, cheaper.

As world consumption of metalliferrous minerals increases and as the grade of ore declines (with the exhaustion of existing mines) domestic refuse may become richer "ore" than that mined conventionally. In the future we may regret having discarded as refuse much material which could have been recovered today at relatively little cost.

D. Geldart

P. R. Birch

Co-operative Competition

Most new projects worth working on get going thanks solely to the energy of the people involved—some, however, require initial SEED-MONEY to get off the ground—for instance, BIT Information Service was Hoppy's brainwave, but it still required a £1,000 gift from Paul McCartney to really get it going. So for people with outrageous or constructive ideas that need money to be put into action, here's a NEW & REVOLUTIONARY "CO-OPERATIVE COMPETITION" called "THE ALTERNATIVE SOCIETY IDEAS-POOL".

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND £1,250?

TELL US THE BEST WAY AND THE MONEY'S YOURS.

So please send in your ideas on how best to spend (up to) £1,250. Anyone can enter, it doesn't matter a bit whether you consider yourself part of the Alternative Society or not. There are no conditions as such, but the "Ideas-Pool Attendants" are to be entrusted with judging which proposal sent in is the most imaginative and realisable and most in need of money. The "Ideas-Pool Attendants" are a notorious but trustworthy bunch of people: Richard Neville of OZ, Germaine Greer of *The Female Eunuch*, Phil Cohen late of the London Street Commune, Nicholas Saunders of *Alternative London*, Jean Fraser of the Underground Press Syndicate and BIT Information Service, and Hoppy who's working with the Centre for Advanced Television Studies. Before giving money to any project(s), the following are the kind of questions they will ponder:

(1) Is the scheme likely to be put into action and will the money be used to do this?

(2) Will it help change or revolutionise British society in some way?

(3) Will it help people fight their oppressions?

(4) Will it help people expand their consciousness?

(5) Will it help people communicate with one another?

(6) Will it help people improve their environment?

(7) Will it help build up Alternative Society structures anywhere in Britain?

(8) Is something like it already happening or does it represent a new and inspired direction?

(9) And so on—your scheme doesn't have to be all or any of the above, but you probably get the idea of the kind of schemes the Attendants will be looking out for.

Total secrecy and anonymity maintained if you ask for it otherwise—and this is as important as the competitive bit above:

LET'S POOL OUR IDEAS. We're hoping later this year to print the most exciting 300 or so schemes in a "BOOK OF VISIONS 1973", to act as an inspirational handbook for those setting out to change society and also as a guide for rich people and foundations wanting to know positive ways to spend their money.

Any profits from this publication will be fed back into the "Ideas-Pool" at the discretion of the Attendants. If the "Ideas-Pool" is a success and other people follow the example of the anonymous donor who put up this first £1,250 specifically for this project, then it's possible the "Ideas-Pool" will become a permanent alternative society organisation which will regularly give or lend money to new projects, a kind of free bank.

Notes: Send your scheme in on anything from a postcard to a couple of foolscap sheets before MARCH 31, 1973 to The Alternative Society Ideas-Pool, c/o Time Out, 374 Grays Inn Road, London WC1. Please put brackets round any bits you want kept secret and not printed. The Attendants *may* decide to split the £1,250 prize money up—how the money gets spent is totally at their discretion. They will announce the winner(s) in the alternative press throughout the country some time in April 1973.If you need more information, contact BIT INFORMATION SERVICE (01-229 8219).

Islington squatters in court

Jemmy Reid writes: An order for immediate possession of 144 Caledonian Road, London N1, was granted to Islington Borough Council last Friday against a group of squatters who had occupied the house. The house is one of ten which had been occupied by squatters in a block due for renovation by the Council.

At the court hearing, which lasted all day, the repressive nature of the justice was clear. At one stage the judge refused to allow the squatters to help each other in presenting their defence. He even refused them their already-established right to give evidence to the court without giving their names.

From the start, the squatters tried to show how the politics of homelessness in London was central to their defence. The Housing Manager for Islington was called as a witness by the squatters, and she was forced to admit that homelessnes was actually increasing in London, that thousands of houses were empty, and that large numbers of Council-owned houses were being deliberately and systematically "gutted". It was pointed out to the court that the Islington Social Services Department had sent homeless families to the squatters to see if they could help them to find a house to squat in.

The squatters ended their case as follows:

"We demand that all empty houses be given over to homeless people!

We demand an end to gutting of houses by the council!

We demand the right to have a roof over our heads!"

The judge's verdict was received with angry shouts by the squatters and their supporters, and he was sent scurrying from the court.

● The squatters have left 144 Caledonian Road, and moved to another empty house nearby. On Tuesday, workmen broke into this house, but left when they "discovered" that it was occupied. The council wanted No 144 (this was only the first of a series of repossession orders, another case concerning one of the squatter's homes is pending) in order to do renovations at a cost of several thousand pounds, despite the fact that the squatters had shown themselves willing and able to make it habitable themselves.

One of the main complaints of the Islington squatters is that with house prices and rents escalating as they are, they are totally dependant on Council housing for a legal home, but the Council will not consider people who are not in families. Some privately-owned houses opposite the squat are at present being demolished; the land will eventually be used for building a warehouse.

Seeds of Liberation Conference

Spirituality in struggle

John Coreswell writes: What can words convey about a four day experience of living in community with over three hundred seekers after truth? Immediate impressions will only convey immediate reactions. There was everything from love to hate, and back again. People lived a schizoid existence, often failing to relate the dimensions of personal inter-action with the subject we had met to confer about. And amidst the torture and pain of our groping there was Big Dan.

Daniel Berrigan has contributed to a significant development in radical pacifist perspectives. If we risked being overawed by him it was our own fault. "Some property has no right to exist" were immortal words; and the actions which followed were immortal too. Fortunately Berrigan was able to cast aside the immortality which we would thrust upon him, and confronted us instead with his simple humanity.

Berrigan's literary background enables him to express his prophetic insights in poetic phraseology. His central talk was a brilliant exposé of the nature of the State, as reflected in the form of The Beast portrayed in the *Revelation of St. John*. Yet this conference had gathered to demand more than insights. Didn't we claim to be seeking the very seeds of liberation? This SCM conference proposed that the development of a spiritual dimension to our political struggles would somehow fill the gap which had been created inside us all when we left the rigid spiritual confines of the institutional church.

This dilemma is causing real anguish to politically motivated christians but I am convinced that the radical christian movement will emerge from this debate with renewed committment. Remember that Catonsville itself sprang out of similar soul searching amongst American pacifists who were frustrated with the bankruptcy of their own peace movement.

The phrase "turning point" has been used before, but it is vitally relevant now. SCM is an organisation with significant resources, and the current secretariat is refreshingly youthful and militant. Several additional full-time appointments are about to be made. The way SCM shapes its future theories and strategies will decide whether the whirlpool of enthusiasm created at Huddersfield is utilised or simply ebbs away.

Recent years have seen a deepening of analysis and widening of vision by radical christians. What new directions will the movement take as a result of this conference? The general themes suggested were all related to the place of spirituality in the struggle.

We were all moved by Colin Winter's militant and unashamedly fundamentalist evangelism and the place of spirituality in his struggle in Namibia was obvious. Similarly Jim Forest's description of "resistance communities" in the States won sympathetic approval. These communities aim to give spiritual sustainance during the rigours of everyday political struggle. Dan Berrigan describes worship as fulfilling the twin functions of "mystical bond and tactical occasion".

But the overall feeling crated by this extremely important conference was given in Chris Duncan's pre-conference paper when he quoted Johnny Nash singing: "There are more questions than answers, the more I find out the less I know". And it was Chris himself who eloquently presented the political realities which many people had failed to grasp with his spirited contribution on the last evening of the conference. Then we departed . . .

DERRY VIGIL

Robin Percival reports: For the full 24 hours of Christmas Day, midnight to midnight, four people held a vigil and fast at the Guild Hall, Derry. They were joined for shorter periods by another 140 people. The fast and vigil, organised by the Derry group of the FoR was: "For an end to violence and the causes of violence" in Northern Ireland. Leaflets were distributed to passers-by stating the purpose of the fast and vigil. Also on the leaflets was a list of the names of all those who have died in Derry as a consequence of the Northern Ireland troubles since 1969. The list included both civilians and soldiers (both British and IRA). At regular intervals the names of the dead were read out.

The fast and vigil passed with little untoward happening. For those of us only on a food fast, the British army provided tea laced with rum.

A number of the relatives of those who had been killed came to express their solidarity with us, and we were especially touched by the visit of the brother of one of the five men killed the previous week at Annies Bar in the Waterside district.

Contact: Forderry House, 56 Ferguson St, Derry, Northern Ireland.

news in brief

MORE ARMS FOR S. AFRICA? Britain's new ambassador to South Africa, Sir James Bottomley, told of the South African government's "signs of interest" in buying more arms for Britain —Nimrod jet reconnaissance planes and replacements for its ageing fleet of frigates. Sir James described relations between Britain and S. Africa as "extremely close".

CAMDEN RESISTANCE ENDS: The controlling Labour group of Camden Council decided on Monday to end its resistance to higher council rents required by the Housing Finance Act. The council had been warned that failure to implement the Act by January 22 would have led to the loss of £9 million in subsidies over the next two years.

SN4 APPEAL: Anna Mendleson, Hilary Creek, John Barker and James Greenfield, are to appeal against their convictions and 10 year sentences for conspiracy to cause the Angry Brigade explosions.

KLAPP 22: Sergeant David Lee Klapp, a Vietnam veteran, was impressed by the new, hip image of army life in Germany conveyed by re-enlistment posters and decided to sign up for a further six years. However, in Germany Klapp found "The old ways . . . still enforced . . . the caste system, harrassing treatment . . . loss of constitutional rights".
So Klapp charged the army with false advertising and claimed he had the right to quit. He persevered with his claim in spite of bureaucratic hasseling and eventually achieved a (precedent-setting?) honourable discharge a full three years before the end of his six year term.

● Sergeant Ernest Pounder, a former security guard of President Kennedy and a much decorated Green Beret in Vietnam said last Sunday that he had become a conscientious objector and intended to leave the army.

● David Hackworth was an American colonel in line for promotion to general, and the most decorated Vietnam veteran (91 medals). After "taking a look at what was true and real", he resigned in 1971, and has ended up as a waiter as a surf-beach cafe in Australia. "I am here because I like peace", he said. "Now I'm finding out what life is all about".

Anti-Apartheid Actions

Following the refusal of the New Zealand "All-Blacks" rugby team to cancel their invitation to the whites-only South African team to tour New Zealand, Anti-Apartheid groups around Britain have been making continued attempts to communicate with the All-Blacks during their current British tour. So far, the New Zealanders have refused to discuss the issue with anyone. It was following the many unsuccessful attempts of the Birmingham AA group to get a meeting with the team that there was a token demonstration outside their hotel last week.
The Anti-Apartheid Movement are also claiming victory over the white South African squash team that have just completed their British tour. Due to pressure from AA groups in all the areas that matches were planned, many venues we changed or cancelled, and indeed none of the matches were able to take place in public.

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Events

Please remember to send us information about coming demos, projects, happenings, occasions of interest to Peace News readers. Especially welcome are events of NONVIOLENT ACTION occurring OUT OF LONDON. Please make sure that you clearly indicate the nature of the event, the place, the time and when possible, a contact address. Entries must be in by the Monday of the week of publication. Events is a free service.

To publicise fuller details of your event, book a display or classified ad. If you want copies of Peace News—sale or return—to sell at your meeting, write to Peace News (distribution), 5 Caledonian Road, London N1. And if you think it's newsworthy, don't forget to send us a report afterwards.

10-17 January

ST ANDREWS. Liberation Week. Films, talks and art on the theme of liberation. Speakers from Fretlime, Women's Liberation, Gay Liberation and SWAPO. Song and poetry. Contact Diane Lee, 6 College St, St Andrews. Tel. 3624.

12 January Friday

UXBRIDGE. Hillingdon Eco Action Party in Uxbridge Library, 8 pm. Contact Gordon Yates, 14 Friars Ave, West Drayton. Tel. West Drayton 42029.

13 January Saturday

LONDON N1. Fax Christi Jumble Sale, St John the Evangelist, Duncan Terrace, Islington, 2.30 pm.

14 January Sunday

LONDON WC1. Symposium on Peace with Peter Cadogan, Frank Edmead, Dick Nettleton and Michael Sadler. SPES, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, 3 pm. Advance papers available on request.

BIRMINGHAM. ACTION FOR HUMAN SURVIVAL—joint discussion of CND, Conservation Society & FoE at Martin Luther King Centre off Aston St, Gosta Green, 3 pm.

15 January Monday

BRISTOL. FoE Film show. "Do you dig national parks" & "Paul Erhlich Speaks." 14 Frederick Place, Clifton, 8 pm. Contact FoE, Bristol House, 51 George's Road.

LONDON. Greenpeace (Stop the French Tests) Ring-in to the French Embassy. 01-235 8080.

LONDON WC1. London School of Nonviolence recommences, 7 pm, 51 Martin's Court, Trafalgar Sq. Jonathan Power on Czech Resistance.

15 JANUARY & 12 FEBRUARY

LONDON W11. CUB Study Days on Latin America led by Fr de Roo, of St Holland Park. Contact Fax Christi, 5 Caledonian Rd, N1.

16 January Tuesday

LONDON NW1. "A Crack in Time". Donald Swann presents the challenging programme prepared for his FoR-sponsored tour of N Ireland. Friends House, Euston Rd, 8 pm. Tickets 50p £1, £2 in aid of the tour, and victims of the violence, from FoR, 9 Coombe Rd, New Malden, Surrey.
Other performances:
17 Queen's University Hall, Belfast.
18 Ballymurphy, Belfast.
19 Shankhill, Belfast, etc.

BIRMINGHAM. April Carter, past secretary of CND, writer on anarchism, direct action & nuclear testing, at Peace Centre, 18 Moor St, Ringway, 8 pm.

21 January Sunday

21 JANUARY SUNDAY
LONDON WC1. "Freedom—A Biological Imperative". Michael Duane at SPES, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, 11 am.

23 January Tuesday

LONDON NW3. "Environment in the Balance". "Koala" & "Marloo the Red Kangaroo". Films in aid of Conservation Society. Rosslyn Hall, 8 pm. Tickets 25p from W. H. Meadows, 9 Pilgrimes Lane, NW3.

24 January Wednesday

LONDON SW1. "Medicine in China". Dr J Horn of the Young Socialist Medical Association. Cole Room, 11 Dartmouth St, 8 pm.

26 January Friday

CARDIFF. "Nonviolent Nationalism". Gwynfor Evans at Cardiff Temple of Peace, 8.15 pm.

CAMBRIDGE. "Computerised Warfare"—slide show and commentary at Friends Meeting House, Jesus Lane, 8 pm. Contact Stephen Rowland, 46 Owlstone Rd. Tel. 54147.

27 January Saturday

MANCHESTER. Campaign for Homosexual Equality. One day meeting at Students' Union. Party/disco afterwards. Accommodation arranged if necessary. Contact Joy Reeves, 15 Riversdale Road, Manchester.

DERRY. Vigil for Bloody Sunday at Free Derry Corner. Contact 97 Middle Land, London N1.

27-28 January

LONDON WC1. Organisation for Student Community Action Regional Workshop. Visits discussions, etc. Areas for learning include housing, planning and redevelopment, welfare rights, transport, play education. Contact OSCA, University of London Union, Malet St, London WC1. 01-580 9088.

9-11 February

LONDON. "Peace Means Action". Weekend of work at Martin Luther King Adventure Playground Islington and discussion of community relations. Contact Fax Christi, 5 Caledonian Rd, N1.

Published by Peace News Ltd at 5 Caledonian Road, London N1, and printed in Great Britain by Goodwin Press (Tyd) Ltd, at 188 Fonthill Road, N4 3HH. Registered at GPO as a Newspaper. Available on order from all newsagents.

Announcements

17-18 February

LONDON W11. SCIENCE FOR PEOPLE. Community Science conference at Notting Hill Ecumenical Centre, Denbigh St. British Society for Social Responsibility in Science. Contact Hugh Faddier, 9 Poland St, W1. 01-437 2729.

24 February

BOURNEMOUTH. FoR Conference. United Reformed Church Hall, Charminster Rd, 2.30 pm.

24-26 February

GLASGOW. Training in Nonviolence Weekend Cost £1. Contact Omega Peace Centre, 58 Carnarvon St, Glasgow. Tel. 041 332 1049.

27-29 April

HODDESDON, HERTS. PPU AGM & Conference at. Contact PPU, 6 Endsleigh St, London WC1. 01-387 5521.

Regular Events

Birmingham

EVERYDAY. Birmingham PEACE CENTRE is open from 10 am to 7 pm at 18 Moor St, Ringway. Tel 643 0966. If you want to help run it contact Antonia 454 7782 or Heather 429 2263. Meetings at Peace Centre.

MONDAY, 7 pm. Open meeting for business and policy discussions.

THURSDAY, 7.30 pm. GLF.

FRIDAY. Food Group's Vegetarian Restaurant open 6-8 pm. Carrs Lane Community Centre.

Brighton

MONDAY 8 pm. Brighton & Hove Claimants' Union meeting. Open Cafe, 7 Victoria Road.
ALTERNATE TUESDAYS. Brighton Environmental Committee full group meeting, 17 Springfield Rd, 7.30 pm.
WEDNESDAY 8 pm. PEOPLE NOT PSYCHIATRY. Open Cafe, 7 Victoria Road.

THURSDAY 8 pm. GAY LIB COUNSELLING. Open Cafe, 7 Victoria Road.

Cambridge

ALTERNATE FRIDAYS 8 pm. Cambridge Peace Group meets at 62 St Philips Road. Hugh and Phyllis Starkey. Tel. 64743.

Cardiff

EVERY DAY: RIB office for info on legal and social matters and community action. Mon-Sat 10 am-10 pm. Sun 12-4 pm.

MONDAY, CND and YCND meet at Friends Meeting House, 43 Charles St, 7.30 pm. Sanity and Peace News selling every Saturday. Contact: Clive 564775.

MONDAY. Women's Action Group. "Royal George", junction of Albany Rd and Crwys Rd, 7.30 pm.

MONDAY. "Canopy" (for Gay Lib). Upstairs in the Blue Anchor, St Mary's St, 7.30 pm.
THURSDAY 7.15 pm. Cardiff People's Paper House to house selling. meet outside New Rd Bathroom for addresses and discussion meeting after. Social. Contact [illegible]

Corby

EVERY MONTH: Anarchist discussion at 7.30 pm on First Friday in every month at Terry and Sue Phillips' place, 7 Cresswell Walk. For details of local anarchist activities phone Corby 64791.

Edinburgh

EVERY MONDAY. Anarchists meet upstairs in Meadow Bar, Buccleuch St (top flat right) in evening.

Guildford

NIGHTLY, 10 pm-6 am (Sundays 2 pm-10 pm). "Nightline". 32710.

Hull

TUESDAY 8 pm. Claimants' Union General and Municipal Works Union, 3 Kingston St, Albion.

Leamington

WEDNESDAY. Leamington Dwarves meet top flat, 7 Regent Place, 8 pm.

Leeds

EVERY DAY. The Toolshed Red and Black Bookshop, 132 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2, 12 am-6 pm. Tel 38671, ext 37. Premises also house Claimants' Union, Information Point, Ferret (Leeds Free Press), Gay Lib and Women's Lib.

Leicester

EVERY DAY 1-5 pm. LINK information centre, 24 Hastings St. After 6.30 pm. Phone Leicester 22254.

WEDNESDAY 8.30 pm. People Not Psychiatry.

THURSDAY. Leicester Peace Group meet 8.00 pm.

London

EVERY WEEKDAY W1. VIETNAM VIGIL at US Embassy, Grosvenor Sq, 12 noon-1 pm. Contact Mia Lord, 14 Grays Inn Rd, WC1. Tel. 242 3572.

Special Vigils:
Monday 15. Communist Party (London District). ASTMS, GLF.
Tuesday 16. Sheet Metal Workers, NUS.
Wednesday 17. Young Liberals, Women's Liberation Workshop, National Assembly of Women.
Thursday 18. London Co-operative Society; Liaison Committee for Women's Peace Groups; Ealing Medical Aid Committee.
Friday 19. Union of American Exiles in Britain; Liberation; SLADE.

EVERY WEEKDAY at Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh St, WC1 (Behind Friends House). Peace Pledge Union staff work for peace. Drop in for a chat and a cup of coffee anytime.

EVERY WEEKDAY at the junction of Endell St and Long Acre, WC2 (Covent Gdn tube). Covent Garden Oddsome Bible Vigil, 12.30 pm-1.30 pm.

EVERY DAY until 30 January. "A View from Inside"—paintings by Joe (H.M. Prisoner) 10 am-6 pm. Nicholas Treadwell Gallery, 50 Chiltern St, W1.

SUNDAY, 3 pm. SE London Dwarfs meet at 81A Granville Park. Under discussion: SE London Press and Street Theatre.

TUESDAY. London Youth Association Peace Pledge Union meets 7.00 pm at Dick Sheppard House, 01-387 5521.

TUESDAY, 6.10 pm. Alternative London News, supplied by BIT, on Radio London.

WEDNESDAY (D.V.). India's persecution of the Nagas. Vigil outside India House (inside if raining) 5-6 pm. Or write or phone Indian High Commissioner (Aldwych, London, WC2; 01-836 8484). Contact Raymond Hutchinson, 241 Long Elmes, Harrow Weald, Middx.

WEDNESDAY 21, 7.30 pm. PEOPLE NOT PSYCHIATRY. Open meeting free. Avec Centre, Charles Booth House, Guthlaxton St. 01-247 2373.

THURSDAY NI, 7.30-8.30 pm. DRAFT COUNSELLING for US exiles. "Support", 5 Caledonian Rd. 24 hour service 01-278 1976.

THURSDAY SE1, 8 pm. South London GLF at the Minet Library, Knatchbull Rd, Camberwell.

THURSDAY SW4, 7.30 pm. South London PROP Group, 61 Stenhouse St, SW4. Clapham Common tube.

THURSDAY, 8 pm. Camden FoE meet at 17 Prince of Wales Rd. First floor office; except last Thursday of the month, when they meet other FoE groups at White Lion Pub, James St, Covent Garden. Contact John Standish, 174 Pinchley Rd, NW3.

WEEKLY. London Quaker Action Group meets each week. Phone 01-359 4534 or 01-837 4539 for details.

Manchester

MONDAY 8 pm. COMMUNITY ACTION. Schools democracy, peace action, Gypsy rights, anti-apartheid, tenants' groups, university revolution. Just some of the current concerns of the Community Research and Action Group. Meets at 36 High Lane, Chorlton, Manchester 21.

TUESDAY. Manchester Nonviolent Action Group are concentrating on Namibia and Macro-analysis sessions. For details of meetings contact 19 Duncan Rd, Manchester 13. 061-224 0831.

WEDNESDAY 7 pm. Free Learning Group meets—for practical deschooling. Contact Dai Harris, 061-445 9429.

Oxford

TUESDAY 8 pm. Oxford Claimants' Union, 151a Cowley Rd.

Slough

FRIDAY 8 pm. Slough pacifist group at Community Relations Office, 5 Ledgers Rd. All welcome. Contact Jean, Iver Heath 4730.

Southend

TUESDAY 7.30 pm. Anarchist/Libertarian discussion, 68 Wimborne Rd.

Southampton

EVERY NIGHT. "Nightline". Information service, 6 pm-9 am. (0703) 58579. Always someone to talk to.

Stoke-on-Trent

EVERY DAY. Cafe now at 94 Hanover St, Shelton. Tel. 0782 [illegible]. Needs more workers, more info. Anyone interested in starting an alternative newspaper, contact CHIP. General Meeting THURSDAY 8 pm.

TUESDAY. People Not Psychiatry at 118 Liverpool Rd. Contact Ian Tracy, 24 Stubbs Gate, Newcastle.

THURSDAY. Gay Lib. Meeting at Prince of Wales pub, Liverpool Rd, 7.30 pm.

Yeovil

GREGGS. Permanent show of local arts/crafts. Occasional Greenpeace Gatherings on relevant topics. Rural surroundings. Organic Vegetarianism. Crashpad. Green Riding School, West Coker Rd, Yeovil. Tel Yeovil 2894.

York

SUNDAY. York Anarchists meet, 104 Bishopthorpe Rd, 3 pm. Contact Neil Hunt, same address.

ALTERNATE THURSDAYS. Pacifist Group at Friends Meeting House (room 4), Clifford St. Contact R. I. Jeffrey, Stallenhouse Meermanken, nr York. X PGnz) q

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events xtra

Support Larzac farmers

The compulsory purchase of several thousand acres of farm land at Larzac in southern France—in order to expand a military training range—has now been approved. Readers of *Peace News* will be aware of the continuing protests of the farmers concerned, and thousands of their supporters, that has been going on for many months. In the light of this latest development, the farmers have set off on a week-long tractor procession to Paris, holding protest meetings en route. To coincide with their arrival on Saturday, some symbolic support will be provided outside the French Embassy in London. The precise time and nature of this are still being decided, but please ring WRI for details if you can join in this venture, or want to make a similar gesture at French Consulates elsewhere. WRI's number is 01-837 3860.

Spontaneous Nonviolent Action Project

SNAP came into being from a joint meeting between London Youth Association PPU, London Youth FoR and London Quaker Nonviolent Action Group. The idea of SNAP being that we can react spontaneously to any situation, whether it be local/national/international, which we feel needs our attention.

To get SNAP started we intend to get at least ten people from the PPU, and FOR and QNVAG, who will be able to come at short notice to take part in actions. Kieran Osborne of the FOR is co-ordinator of SNAP, and for the FOR; Jeffrey Smith is co-ordinator for the QNVAG; and Jenny Jacobs is co-ordinator for the PPU. We would like to get as many people involved as possible, so if anyone would like more information, or would like to be part of SNAP (in London), please write to:

Kieran Osborne, 29 Great James Street, London WC1. Phone 01-242 7130.

Hunt Saboteurs

Ronnie Lee writes: Over the Christmas and New Year holidays, the Luton Unit of the Hunt Saboteurs Association attended hunts in Cambridge, Bedfordshire, and Hertfordshire. The traditional picturesque occasions (providing you're not in at the kill, that is), were enlivened by false hunting horns, anti-mate sprays, and placards bringing home to the onlookers what the occasions were really all about. No hunt saboteurs were injured by huntsmen on these occasions, and the dogs didn't catch any foxes.

Contact: 13 Orchard Close, Meppershall, Shefford, Beds.

Greenpeace ring-in

On Monday, there will be another ring-in on the French embassy in protest at the French tests planned for June. People who ring the French embassy number (01-235 8080) should ask for the Ambassador (Jacques de Beaumarchais), Philippe Cuvillier, Gabriel Robin, or Victor Andre Gares (Press).

In Birmingham the French Commercial Attache's number is 021-454 0554, and in Manchester 061-236 7949. If you phone, have patience with the person on the other end of the line. If asked to write a letter, a suggested retort is "I want to communicate with a human being, not a waste paper basket".

Contact: Greenpeace (Stop the French tests), 14 Gray's Inn Rd, WC1.

Alternative Radio News

BBC Radio London (206m MW; 95.3MHz VHF) are running an "Alternative London News" programme for about 15 minutes as part of the Breakthrough programme at 8.10 pm on Tuesdays. It's put together by BIT Information Service (01-229 8219). They ask listeners who like it to ring Radio London (01-493 3401) and tell them so, since there may well be efforts in the opposite direction.

International Action News

Quiet violence in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala: A "quiet" violence has superceded the long guerrilla war in this small country of 5.5 million people. The "quiet" and anonymous violence does not capture world headlines, like the violence in Vietnam or Ireland, because the killings are done one at a time, without fanfare, and no one openly proclaims responsibility for them.

Nonetheless it is an on-going violence that takes as large a toll as some internal wars that are much more publicised. In fact more Guatemalans are being killed in this new form of warfare than Irishmen in Northern Ireland or Americans in Vietnam—more actually than both put together.

1,000 assassinations

In the course of the last 12 months alone at least 1,000 people have been murdered under circumstances that suggest political motives. On any given day newspapers contain three or four items such as: "two perforated bodies found in Colomba," "man kidnapped and shot," "body found on river bank". These are in addition to the "normal" murders committed as crimes of passion or in the course of robberies. But unlike the "normal" murders they almost never result in the killers being caught.

The result is a fear at least as pervasive as that which existed during guerrilla days. Foreign diplomats, even of low rank, are escorted home by police, while the vast majority of political leaders and a goodly number of businessmen employ bands of bodyguards that in a few instances approach that of a small army.

Mario Sandoval Alarcon, president of the 55-man unicameral Congress, commands a force of 50 bodyguards working in shifts. The head of the opposition Christian Democrats, Rene de Leon Schlotter, has three armed men following him at all times.

Thousands of people, moreover, are walking about with pistols tucked under their belts, prepared for their own defence. Indeed the number is so large that in recent weeks the Government has undertaken a "depistolisation" programme and has detained hundreds of people who have no permits for the guns they carry.

On the surface there seems to be no good reason for the continuing political violence. The guerrilla movement, which began after the defeat of a leftist uprising in the armed forces on November 13, 1960, has been mauled into quiescence. The movement reached its peak in the middle of the decade under the leadership of Luis Turcios and Cesar Montes of the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR).

With the help of $16.4 million granted by the US for planes, helicopters, paddy wagons, walkie-talkies, and intensive training of the military and police in counterinsurgency, Col. Carlos Arana Osorio was able to defeat the guerrillas at Zacapa and to isolate them to small pockets in Petan and San Marcos. A few months after Arana became President in 1970 he instituted a "state of siege" that denied all civil liberties. It lasted until November of last year.

Mainly the small fry

Yet the violence continues unabated and may even have picked up momentum. Last summer Vicente Merida, leader of the bus drivers' union, disappeared following labour troubles in his industry and is believed to be dead.

More sensational still was the murder of Oliverio Casteneda, vice president of Congress and the head of a rightist organisation of 500 terrorists known as "The Hand". Castaneda, the second most powerful man in the country, may have been killed by secret servicemen in the army, two of whom were recently shot to death in what most people think was retaliation.

Most of the killings, however, are of little people—peasants out of favour with large landowners or police, city dissidents classed as leftists.

The Government disparages the notion that all the assassinations are political, insisting that most are the work of common bandits. But it does not explain why so few of the killers are apprehended. Independent non-Government sources say that the murders are extralegal in nature, the work of overzealous policemen or Army sergeants who do not want to endure the tedium of long court cases before doing away with men formerly involved with the guerrillas.

"It is ridiculous to think that so large a scale of violence", says one foreign observer, "could be undertaken without Army or police encouragement". He points out that "The Hand" or the "Eye for an Eye" right-wing terrorist forces originally were formed by Army intelligence or other Army and police security organisations. He cannot recall, he says, a single instance in which a policeman was tried for killing a leftist.

Army at source of power

The killings have muted criticism of Arana and demoralised forces left of centre. Many observers are convinced that behind the facade of democratic elections the true source of power continues to rest with the Army—and the extralegal forces, such as "The Hand", that evolve from it. They feel that the only prospect for a reformist government would be the emergence of leftist forces in the Army, such as happened in Peru. It is generally conceded that the reform government of Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro that left office in 1970 was unable to carry out any significant change because it had to make deals with the Army to stay in power.

Arana himself seems to be immune to social reform—in a nation where agricultural labourers earn between 25 and 80 cents a day, and illiteracy is still 70 percent. When two men close to him, Jaime Monge, a trade unionist on friendly terms with Walter Reuther, and Victor Rodriguez, an old leftist, tried to establish reform-oriented groups within the Arana coalition, they too were assassinated.

Sydney Lens (DNSL)

US draft crackdown

Thousands of young Americans who have refused to be drafted or who have broken a variety of Selective Service rules are to be indicted and prosecuted in the near future.

A hint of things to come was the announcement by the US Attorney in Buffalo, New York, that 98 draft resisters were indicted there in the first week of December, and that at least 100 more draft resisters in the area would be indicted during the following seven days. A Justice Department spokesman claimed that the 200 predicted indictments in the Buffalo area was only a fraction of the number expected in other areas around the United States. Crackdowns in the Brooklyn and San Francisco areas were imminent.

The Justice Department and the FBI have been encouraging Attorneys throughout the country to remove the backlog of draft resister cases as soon as possible. Many of the unprosecuted cases date back to 1967 and even earlier.

No Injun War

● Henry Van Nett, a Chippewa Indian from Minneapolis, has refused induction into the US Army on the grounds that treaties signed by the Chippewa Tribe in 1855 and 1864 exclude all tribe members from serving in the US Armed Forces.

The Treaties demand that Chippewa Indians "conduct themselves at all times in a peaceable and orderly manner" and "adopt the pursuits of a civilised life".

Van Nett is prepared to bring Indian veterans to the court who will testify to the burning of Vietnamese villages and to atrocities committed against prisoners. He insists that these activities are neither peaceful nor civilised and would thus involve violations of his treaty obligations.

The District Judge has continued the case indefinitely and has ordered that Van Nett be examined by a psychiatrist.

(*WIN*)

US Navy sabotage witnesses flit

The US Navy's case against seamen Patrick Chenoweth, charged with $800,000 worth of sabotage to the aircraft carrier USS Ranger (see *Peace News*, December 1), has received a serious setback with the disappearance of two key prosecution witnesses.

The two men, Bailey and Sunyack, went AWOL shortly before the Ranger left for the Far East and have not been seen since. Virtually the entire prosecution case rests on their statements that they heard Chenoweth claim credit for the sabotage.

Before the trial began Chenoweth's defence won a significant concession when US District Court Judge Peckham ruled that the Navy must hold a hearing to discuss the possibility of releasing Chenoweth on bail. This ruling appears to have established that the thousands of prisoners throughout the military justice system have the same rights of pre-trial release as civilians.

Calling all students (again)

If you missed *Peace News* over the vac, you might like to know that last week's issue was a special one on the persecution of tribal minorities around the world, entitled "We, the Tribes". Copies of this are still available to anyone wanting one. Also available are copies of the previous double-size (and double-price) bumper Christmas issue, with Daniel Berrigan's *Letter to the Weathermen*, and Godfrey Featherstone's article on Indochina. This issue also included an exclusive report on the extermination of the Aché Indians in Paraguay, and if you want a complete set of our recent minorities coverage, there are reprints of this available free (but please send postage if you're ordering this alone and not the following issue).

If you're reading *Peace News* in one of the colleges or universities where it's not regularly sold, why not sell it yourself? If you feel the paper is a valuable weekly forum of news and views on radical nonviolence, why don't you—or your college Peace Action Group—sell the paper regularly? Send for details of our sale-or-return discount arrangements to Peace News (students), 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1.

Metcalf blasts Kirk

March 1 has been tentatively set as an International Action Day against the French tests by Greenpeace (Canada), according to the Georgia Straight. As the Gensuiken of Japan have called for an International Day of Mourning for fall-out victims on the same day, it seems likely that this date will be agreed. Greenpeace (Britain) had proposed May 6—that may become a second international day of action.

Talking to the *Straight*, Ben Metcalf (chairman of Greenpeace Canada) criticised New Zealand Prime Minister Norman Kirk. Kirk has promised to send a frigate into the testing area but "not into the eye of the storm". Says Metcalf, "if they're going to stay out of the way, they shouldn't be there at all".

Metcalf goes on to stress the importance of involving the French people in the international campaign against the tests. He mentions that an international walk to Paris from London (and other European cities) is planned. Greenpeace (Britain) is not sure if he is referring to the British proposal for a walk or if the Canadians have plans of their own. Greenpeace (Britain) is planning a walk for May.

Contact: International march, Greenpeace (Stop the French tests), 14 Gray's Inn Rd, London WC1.

Leaflet bombs

For the second week-end running, there were leaflet "bomb" explosions in Lisbon, home-made explosive devices spreading political leaflets over a wide area. The dozen or so peaceful anti-colonial war vigilers who were arrested in a church at the time of the previous explosions were reported to be still in detention at an interrogation centre after more than a week. The responsibility for the explosions has been claimed by a group called the Revolutionary Workers, one of an increasing number of seemingly autonomous illegal opposition groups of varying political persuasions.

Dutch "Boycott American Products"

Linde Lyftogt reports: Over the last two weekends in Utrecht there have been huge demonstrations against the American bombing of North Vietnam. On Saturday, December 30, 20,000 marched through the city.

Last weekend's demonstration was sponsored by all the major parties in the country and, for the first time, the Dutch Reformed Church co-sponsored a demonstration with the Communists.

● In Wageningen a "Boycott American Products" Group has started and is achieving limited successes. The group would like to hear of similar campaigns in other countries.

Contact: Bas Morrel, Nobelweg 108, Wageningen, Netherlands.

The Farm and Food Society

challenges factory farming and works for humane and wholesome agriculture. Enquiries: 4 Willifield Way, London NW11. 01-455 0634

JOHN BALL'S COLUMN

"Move right in, Charlie—on that wounded man—closer . . . that's just fine". I thought Munich was about as far as we could go towards massacre as a spectator sport, but wouldn't you know it, the USA had a few tricks up its sleeve. And this is only the beginning . . . "Up the river from New Orleans".

Anyone like to bet that they aren't going to find a way some time of getting the cameras in there on the inside? You know, raiders in a bank holding the automatic spy cameras as hostages. Could add a whole new dimension to things—"half a million dollars from CBS or we'll smash the cameras, and you won't get the inside shots, and the production will be wrecked".

Yes, it's sick making cracks with the bodies still lying in the morgue. But when real life gets more like a movie, why pretend that I don't instinctively find myself reacting in the way we've all been conditioned to by years of television and movies. A spoof comedy-thriller doesn't turn serious just because a few innocent people get killed by the groovy heroes and the groovy villains, that's what we've learnt—it's all fun and games and it's stand up when the camera's turned down. We've just been watching a preview of the next Shaft film with a gimmicky locked room problem thrown in for good measure. Oh yes, there's going to be some loot made out of this one all right. And since it is New Orleans why not tie it in with the Kennedy killings? (They weren't in New Orleans—*Eds.* Of course, you boneheaded pen-pushers, but I thought everyone knew they were planned in New Orleans—JB.)

* * *

More gunplay, but a bit less lethal, so far anyway. I've been trying to divert my three-year-old son from his genocidal Wild West fantasies—well, even apart from other long-term considerations, half the kids he plays with have parents from India and around, and shouts of "Let's go and kill all the Indians" sounds particularly dodgy in this sort of context. So I've been giving him my simplified history of how the West was won. Well it might be too much to turn him nonviolent but at least I think I might get him to switch sides. But what do I get instead? "You be a nice Indian, and I'll be a nasty cowboy, and I'll kill you".

* * *

Everywhere I turn suddenly it's Hadrian's Wall. Switch on the telly, open the paper, Hadrian's Wall. Am I suffering from a delusion or is it the Common Market having insidious effect? Back in the Roman Empire at last. Shifted a bit to the north of course, with in place of North Africa, Denmark, Germany and Ireland. And Scotland, though I wouldn't be too sure of that.

Hence the Hadrian's Wall bit . . . I once knew a fanatic Celtic nationalist who had the ambition of rebuilding it, facing the other way, as the southern border of a greater Scotland with Offa's Dyke similarly renovated to form the border of an independent Wales, expanded once more to its natural limits. Of course he was an Englishman.

Classified

Rates: 2p per word (minimum). Box Numbers, 5p extra. Discounts: 5% for 5 insertions, 10% for 10, and 15% for yearly contract.

Personal

CALLING ALL NUDISTS libertarians in Central London (later further afield): let's strike a shattering blow for freedom and progress, and with all peace, by working joyfully together in the true libertarian spirit of mutual friendly co-operation towards the abolition of the shameful nudity taboo and the glorious advent of nudist liberation. All replies, if patently genuine, shall be gladly answered. Desmond Hunter, c/o Box 985.

"I RENOUNCE WAR and I will never support or sanction another". This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Send for information to Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh St, London WC1.

FAMILY PLANNING. Large discounts. Gossamer 3 doz £1.25. Featherlite 3 doz £1.20. Nu-Form 3 doz £2. Contour 75p a doz. Supertrans 3 doz £1.50. Natural membrane skins 77½p for 3. Write for price lists: Personal Service, PO Box 3, Horbury, Wakefield.

TURN VEGAN and free animals and the environment from unjustifiable exploitation. Information: Vegan Society, Department L, 47 Highlands Rd, Leatherhead, Surrey. Stamp appreciated.

CAMDEN DWARFS planning rural experiment in communal living. Anyone interested who sees communes as a means of change on individual, social and political levels, write to Chris or Pat at 40, Arkwright Road, London NW3.

Coming Events

THE FoR EXHIBITION on Northern Ireland will be at Westminster Friends Meeting House, 52 St Martin's Lane, WC2, from January 14-18 from 12-8 pm every day except January 14 when it will open till 4 pm. The exhibition aims to explain some of the present conflict and gives information about some of the attempts at reconciliation being made. It covers the history of Ireland, accounts of the main groups and people involved in the conflict, and the effects of the conflict on people.

SYMPOSIUM ON PEACE
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1.
3.0 pm Sunday, January 14
Peter Cadogan—Frank Edmead
Dick Nettleton—Michael Sadler
Does the peace movement face expansion or extinction and on what grounds? Advance papers available—telephone 242 8032
telephone 242 8032

SOUTH PLACE ETHICAL SOCIETY
All welcome. Admission free. Tea 15p.

Books 'n things

BOOKS/PAMPHLETS BOUGHT. Hammersmith Books, Lifford Place, London SW13. 876 7254.

GAY NEWS. 10p. The independent national homosexual newspaper. 19 London Street, London W2 1HL.

Jobs

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IN COMMUNITY RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COUNCIL
Interest in community relations essential. Duties include organisation of conferences, editing Social Responsibility Newsletter and servicing the Community Relations Committee. Salary within the range £1,300-£1,700. Further details and application form from Cyril Ellman, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. Tel: 387 3601.

Wanted

LEGIBLE SCRIBBLERS needed to address envelopes for the Peace News annual appeal. Please phone before coming, Ian Kennard 01-837 9794.

WANTED, AS USUAL, willing hands for packing the paper, Wednesdays from 5.30. Come and get your free tea and things in pleasant company—5 Caledonian Road, N1 (just around the corner from King's Cross).

HELPERS WANTED for Omega shop 10-4 daily (except Sunday) at Brixton Arches, 27-29 Atlantic Road, SW9. Also books, clothes, anything saleable.

Potlatch postponed - venue needed - can you help? Tel. 01-837 9794